

THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) A method of treating viral infections comprising applying electrical stimulation to the skin or mucosa of a patient, wherein said electrical stimulation is applied via first and second electrodes located on a surface as a series of electrical pulses, wherein the first electrode defines a closed contour configuration that surrounds a portion of the surface and the second electrode defines another closed contour configuration that surrounds the closed contour of the first electrode and wherein different pulses in said series have different maximum amplitudes.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said pulses progressively increase or decrease in maximum voltage or current amplitude

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said pulses progressively increase in maximum voltage or current amplitude.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein some of said series of pulses comprise AC waveforms, and wherein some of said series of pulses comprise DC waveforms.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 4, wherein at least a portion of said series of pulses alternates between AC and DC pulses.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said pulses vary in maximum amplitude from approximately 3 volts to approximately 20 volts.

7. (Previously presented) A method of treating viral infections comprising applying electrical stimulation to the skin or mucous membranes of a patient, wherein said electrical stimulation is applied via first and second electrodes located on a surface as a series of electrical pulses, wherein the first electrode defines a closed contour configuration that surrounds a portion of the surface and the second electrode defines another closed contour configuration that surrounds the closed contour of the first electrode and wherein different pulses in said series have different frequencies.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 7, wherein said pulses have different maximum amplitudes.

9. (Original) A method of treating viral infections comprising the application of alternating periods of AC and DC electrical stimulation.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 9, wherein said alternating periods of AC and DC electrical stimulation progressively increase in amplitude.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 9, wherein different periods of AC stimulation have different frequencies.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 9, wherein said frequencies progressively increase or decrease in frequency within one of said AC periods.

13. (Previously presented) An apparatus for treating viral infections with electrical stimulation comprising:

at least two electrodes located on a surface, wherein a first of the at least two electrodes defines a closed contour configuration that surrounds a portion of the surface and a second of the at least two electrodes defines another closed contour configuration that surrounds the closed contour of the first electrode; and

a circuit configured to supply both AC and DC voltage to said electrodes at voltages of less than or equal to about 20 volts.

14. (Previously presented)) An apparatus for treating viral infections with electrical stimulation comprising first and second electrodes located on a surface, wherein said first electrode defines a closed contour configuration that surrounds a portion of the surface and said second electrode defines another closed contour configuration that surrounds the closed contour of the first electrode and wherein said first and said second electrode each comprise an elongated surface for application to a patient's skin or mucosa.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 14, wherein said first and said second closed contours comprise concentric circular contours.

18. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 14, wherein said first and said second closed contours comprise concentric rectangular contours.

19. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 14, wherein said first and said second closed contours comprise concentric square contours.

20. (Cancelled)

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21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously presented) A device for treating viral infections comprising:

a housing;

an electrical signal source mounted to said housing;

first and second electrodes located on a surface of the housing for application to a patient's skin or mucous membranes, wherein said first electrode defines a closed contour configuration that surrounds a portion of the surface and said second electrode defines another closed contour configuration that surrounds the closed contour of the first electrode and wherein said electrodes are coupled to said electrical signal source so as to be energized by said electrical signal source;

a counter mounted to said housing, wherein said counter is configured to display a count of the number of times said electrical signal source has energized said electrodes.

23. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 22, wherein said counter comprises a multi-segment LCD display.

24-28. (Cancelled)